

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Office Action is responsive to the applicants' amendment filed on Aug. 25, 2009.

Claims 1, 5 and 8-12 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 5 and 8-12 are pending in this application.

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on Aug. 25, 2009. These drawings are acceptable.

Claims

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. George C. Beck (reg. No. 38,072) on November 13, 2009. During telephone conversation with Mr. Beck, an agreement was reached to amend claim 1.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: page 7, line 14, "said screw motors" has been changed to -- *said screw rotors* --.

The amendment to the claim 1 has been entered to correct a typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5 and 8-12 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: as pointed out by applicant's amendment (see amendment to the claims section page 7) and applicant's argument (see remarks section pages 11-12), the cited references fail to disclose or render obvious the

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claimed combination including: a seal gas can be introduced to gaps between the outer circumferential surfaces of the bearing members and inner circumferential surfaces of the screw rotors from all of outer circumferential surfaces of the shaft seal member and the shaft seal structure forming a static pressure seal so that the screw rotors are centered with respect to the axes without runout/tilt, the inner circumferential surfaces of the screw rotors are not in contact with the shaft seal members, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa Trieu whose telephone number is 571-272-4868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am- 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion can be reached on 571-272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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TT

/Theresa Trieu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3748